

PRAYER FOR PEACE, MEMORIAL DAY, 1961

By the President of the United States
of America

April 24, 1961
[No. 3409]

A Proclamation

WHEREAS the high courage and the supreme sacrifice of Americans who gave their lives in battle have made it possible for our land to flourish under freedom and justice; and

WHEREAS the ideals and patriotism of those who answered the call to service stand as an inspiration to every new generation of Americans; and

WHEREAS the same principles and revolutionary beliefs for which our forbears fought and died are still at issue in the world and the challenge against them can be met only through the same qualities of courage, strength, and unflinching determination shown by our noble dead; and

WHEREAS Memorial Day each year provides a fitting occasion upon which our people may not only commemorate the Nation's heroic dead but also unite in prayer for the preservation of liberty and peace free from the threat of war; and

WHEREAS to this end the Congress, in a joint resolution approved May 11, 1950 (64 Stat. 158), requested the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe each Memorial Day as a day of prayer for permanent peace:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN F. KENNEDY, President of the United States, do hereby urge the people of the United States to observe Tuesday, May 30, 1961, Memorial Day, by invoking the blessing of God on those who have died in defense of our country, and by praying for a new world of law where peace and justice shall prevail and a life of opportunity shall be assured for all; and I designate the hour beginning in each locality at eleven o'clock in the morning of that day as the time to unite in such prayer.

I also urge the press, radio, television, and all other media of information to cooperate in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this 24th day of April in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and [SEAL] sixty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and eighty-fifth.

JOHN F. KENNEDY

By the President:

DEAN RUSK,
Secretary of State.

NATIONAL YOUTH FITNESS WEEK, 1961

April 29, 1961
[No. 3410]

By the President of the United States of America A Proclamation

WHEREAS the fitness of the youth of America is essential to the present and future strength of our Nation; and

WHEREAS in connection with the challenges that our Nation must meet in the days and years ahead, it is imperative that our young people be aware of their obligation to themselves, their families, and to their country to maintain their vigor and fitness; and

WHEREAS the fitness of our youth can be promoted by the determined and coordinated efforts of all our citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN F. KENNEDY, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning April 30, 1961, as National Youth Fitness Week.

I request officials of the Government, and I urge parents, young people, and interested national and local organizations, to use all appropriate means now and during that week to promote pro-